

REMARKS

Claims 23-24 are newly added and now pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-19 are now cancelled. Claims 20-22 were previously cancelled. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Although the Examiner has not raised any objections to the specification, Applicant has amended the title of the invention to better communicate the scope of the invention in light of the claim amendments made herein. Applicant has also amended paragraph [0003] of the specification in order to correct a typographical error.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 12 and 16 stand objected to because of certain informalities. Applicants have cancelled these claims and thus the objections are moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have cancelled these claims and thus the rejections are moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamichi (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0085498 A1; "Nakamichi") in view of Basu (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0100950 A1; "Basu") and Rau (U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,370; "Rau"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have cancelled claims 12-19, thus the rejection of these claims is now moot. Applicants have replaced the cancelled claims with new method claims 23 and 24, which applicants submit are patentable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

Unlike the art of record, applicants' method for link state database (LSDB) retrieval stores control packet information in two different forms of memory, namely (1) ternary content addressable memory (TCAM) and (2) external memory. In one embodiment of applicants' method, in accordance with the routing protocol on the network, only the univocally identified items are stored in the TCAM as retrieval keys (or physical addresses), while other items are stored in the external memory. This speeds up the processing of the LSDB retrieval.

The Examiner agrees that Nakamichi does not teach a unit that searches a database using a TCAM. Thus, Nakamichi is cited primarily to show the state of the art in network traffic information collection. The Examiner cites Basu as teaching that ternary content addressable memory can be advantageously used in packet-based network lookup operations. However, Basu does not teach applicants' unique memory architecture where prescribed control packet items are stored in TCAM, while other control packet item(s) are stored in external memory. Rather, Basu teaches that the

resulting match from the TCAM may be used as an index into SRAM memory (see paragraph 0029). Thus, clearly Basu does not contemplate storing control packet content in a bifurcated way where a prescribed item of the control packet is stored in TCAM, whereas a remaining item of the control packet is stored in external memory.

The Rau reference is similarly deficient. As can be seen in Figure 1 of Rau, the cell header handling unit HTU feeds identifier information (VPI/VCI) to the content addressable memory (CAM), which *in turn* supplies the random access memory (RAM).

Therefore, in order to more fully distinguish applicants' invention from the cited references, applicants are now presenting new independent claim 23 specifying that the received control packet is stored as follows:

“storing a prescribed item of the control packet regarding a physical address in a ternary content addressable memory (TCAM);

storing a remaining item of the control packet in an external memory...”

Newly added claim 24 is dependent upon new claim 23.

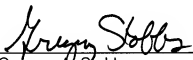
In view of the differences between applicants' method and the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 30, 2009

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